

LISTEN #107

RELEASE OF UNEDITED SCRIPT IN LIEU OF AUDIO RELEASE

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PREROLL – GDK

Hello. My name is Gloria Kellat and I am the current serving producer of LISTen. We apologize for the delay in the release of this episode. Technical difficulties have finally been resolved. It would be easier for us to attack these sorts of issues if we were able to afford to work on production full time. If you are curious about what that might entail, please e-mail me at mrsnicelunchlady@yahoo.com.

And now, here's LISTen #107...

SHOW OPEN – SMK

Across the planet and around the world, you're listening to Radio-Free Radio on the LISNews Netcast Network. For release on or near 0500 hours Coordinated Universal Time on Monday, February 22nd, this is the 107th episode of LISTen.

The essay contest at LISNews is really gearing up. Have you tried your hand at writing an entry? Remember, the contest is part of the initiative by LISNews to encourage more original content on the site that started last summer with the invite-only essay series. If you have great ideas that are not at the level of a research note in an academic journal but also not what would be found in a glossy magazine like *American Libraries*, this might be the venue for you. Go to lisnews.org/essay to get started.

Coming up we have a practical essay on reformatting podcasts into something your patrons might approach more easily. A discussion of the recent release of broadband access information will be presented especially in light of Andy Woodworth's recent post questioning the concept of Library 2.0. To tie everything up in a neat bow, we'll wrap up with a miscellany review and a zeitgeist check.

Before all that, though, we traditionally take a moment to hear from the United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census and their program Profile America. Stay tuned.

[Profile America: Pioneer Chain Store]¹

IS IT TRULY AN AMAZOOGLER WORLD? – SMK

Is it truly an Amazoogle World out there? Andy Woodworth has already started questioning in a cross-post to LISNews the whole notion of Library 2.0. This leads to more fundamental things that need to be considered.

While the United States is considered a First World nation in the aggregate, local conditions do vary. Within relatively easy driving distance I have learned of some

¹ <http://www.census.gov/multimedia/www/radio/audio/pa100222.wav>

interesting spots where not just one but all four of the principal wireless telephone providers do not provide service. This is not happening in a desert area but rather in a more agrarian region of the State of Ohio which has held statehood since 1803.

Digital intermediation presumes economic affluence. With a mixture of urban, suburban, and rural populations starting from the Lake Erie shoreline and heading south I need merely look at the world around me to see a variety of economic conditions. While Library 2.0 assumes that patrons will be keen on Internet access, there are areas where computers are foreign things and modern telephone service was not inaugurated until the 1970s. In a population considered a significant part of the Appalachian Diaspora, Library 2.0's presumptions of sufficient economic influence make it dead on arrival as a concept. Social networks here are not things like Twitter or Identi.ca but are more instead gun clubs, 4-H groups, and church-affiliated groups.

In response to the concerns raised by Andy Woodworth, it may be necessary to take a step back. Library 2.0 on its face seems to wholeheartedly embrace technology on account of technology's coolness. Squaring that with the basic purposes of libraries, though, we come to a presently unimplemented ideal of libraries being places where people can be aided in adapting to a changing media landscape. That is different from how Woodworth understood Library 2.0 as it focuses not on exulting technology but instead in empowering our patrons to be more self-sufficient in navigating what is frankly a confusing mine-ridden landscape.

Patrons, especially including those who make up the Appalachian Diaspora and descendants, do not care what a podcast is let alone a video blog. They are more likely to make functional requests such as trying to figure out how to find a replay of the day's broadcast by Glenn Beck or their favorite host on ESPN Radio. While librarians may want to share the pleasures and joys of technologies for the sake of the technologies with others, the purposes of a library may be best served by walking around in the shoes of a patron or two.

Technology by itself can be great. The recent announcement of the iPad by Apple shows how people are focused on functionality instead of specifications. How do I know this? Well, today's culture of history starting ten minutes ago conveniently neglects the past. Apple's first tablet computer was known as the Newton and was lampooned for its lousy handwriting recognition and the lack of any public understanding of how to integrate it into daily life. Before the were Blackberries and Palm cell phones, the Apple Newton braved the notion that anything akin to a smart phone was even possible as it had the capacity for wireless data communication. Fast forward a few years and now we see people looking for a device that will do much of what the Newton did but can be pictured as part of daily life.

Steve Jobs may be on to something with this focusing on functionality. Perhaps libraries could learn from this?

[CDC PSA: Concussions in Sports]²

REFORMATTING CC-LICENSED PODCASTS TO DISTRIBUTE – SMK

This is Tech for Techies segment number 19. Yes, you haven't heard this for a while. It has returned, though.

In keeping with this week's essay about Library 2.0 missing out on functionality, we're going to talk about some practical steps to where you can help your patrons get past the how of finding podcasts to instead listening to their favorite program. Remember, the medium is not the message for most patrons. Thanks to Creative Commons licensing, a little fancy footwork on your part can help ensure that messages are accessible to your patrons regardless of their original medium.

First, select a program. There are great Creative Commons licensed programs out there like the Linux Outlaws, Shot of Jaq, and the production at TVO known as Search Engine that is hosted by Jesse Brown. If you wanted to introduce your patrons to matters of information policy, for example, Search Engine would be a great choice. If you are not listening to Search Engine yourself, you are missing out on a great look at information policy geared to general audiences.

Check your licensing terms and comply with them. This is important. Non-commercial license restrictions might prevent you from perhaps engaging in cost recovery.

After that, you have to think about how your patrons might hear things. The compact disc might be an easy data carrier that patrons might already be able to handle. With a Linux-based system, the retrieval of a podcast can be automated so that an audio disc could be burnt on-demand for patrons.

After setting up an appropriate computer with your choice of Linux distribution, there are some tools you should collect and install. The first one to secure is a delightful script by Linc Fessenden known as BashPodder.³ BashPodder is licensed under the Free Software Foundation's General Public License and can be adapted for use. BashPodder was deployed prior to the damage to my old workspace to collect video podcasts for later viewing. With the establishment of an appropriate cron job BashPodder ran without intervention.

Once you get BashPodder set up you can use a package like burn on the command line to create a disc.⁴ If you run BashPodder only once per day, it produces a playlist file based upon what it downloaded. If your podcasts retrieved are under 70 minutes per

2 http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/media/mp3/ConcussioninSports1_PSA_30.mp3

3 <http://lincgeek.org/bashpodder/>

4 <http://packages.ubuntu.com/karmic/burn>

day, tools like burn can be automated to crank out audio discs for patrons.

Whether you charge for cost recovery or not depends upon what you are burning and what the relevant licenses are. While podcasts seem wedded to the world of iTunes, things like BashPodder and burn can help you break it free of the mold. Alongside public access computing, photo copiers, and more this is just another way to improve access to information.

[OggCamp Promo]⁵

MISCELLANY AND CLOSING – SMK

Let's take a look at the stories that captured your attention over the week that was. From ten to one:

This Book is Overdue! Contest-Contest-Contest!
TEDx Librarians - Librarians as Thought Leaders.
Top 250 most borrowed books from UK libraries
Digital Books and Your Rights: A Checklist for Readers
It's J.K. Rowling's Turn to Get Sued
A Literary Approach to Speed Dating
Books As Useful Objects
Parent Has a Problem with "Pants" Books for Teens
A Self-Publishers Tale: The Disadvantages of Amazon's Advantage Program

AND

NYPL Librarians Take Questions 24/7

Now let's take a look at some things you likely might have missed. Links to these miscellaneous bits will appear in the show post.

Fabian Schershel of Six Gun Productions posted at his blog about his GeekBox.⁶ What tools do you take with you when you have complicated computer issues to handle? Alan Pope from the Ubuntu UK Podcast posted to his blog about his geek box, too.⁷

Lance Ulanoff of the PCMag Digital Network has a column up about Google Buzz.⁸ When an editor-in-chief of a major tech publication is even calling Google Buzz a step

5 <http://danlynch.org/media/oggcamp10-full-promo.mp3>

6 <http://lamerk.org/geekbox>

7 <http://popey.com/blog/2010/02/18/geekbox/>

8 http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2359673,00.asp?kc=PCRSS03129TX1K0000624&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ziffdavis%2Fpcmag%2Fulanoff+%28Lance+Ulanoff+from+PCMag.com%29&utm_content=Bloglines

too far, that certainly makes one wonder. Ulanoff also raised the very interesting case of a friend of his who checked out on the social networking grid. With the way the Internet access in rural Ohio has issues, that may happen on an involuntary basis for me eventually. That is probably why I went ahead and picked up a pre-paid cell phone to have alternative access to Identi.ca, especially considering how outages pop up at the strangest of times.

Word has also been found that the open source operating system for embedded devices known as Contiki had a new version released.⁹ This is the operating system that has helped breath new life into very old computers like Apple IIe computers so that they might access the net.¹⁰

I want to thank you for joining us. Until next time please remember that Erie Looking Productions under the direction of Gloria Kellat produced this episode for the LISNews Netcast Network.

9 <http://www.h-online.com/open/news/item/Open-Source-embedded-operating-system-Contiki-updated-to-2-4-932026.html>

10 <http://www.sics.se/contiki/perspective/browsing-the-web-from-an-apple-ii-with-contiki.html>